

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:56 a.m., October 12, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 13.

Proclamation 7237—National School Lunch Week, 1999

October 8, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For more than 50 years, the National School Lunch Program has been at the forefront of our Nation's effort to promote the health and well-being of our children. Created to ensure that all children in our Nation receive the nourishment they need to develop into healthy and productive adults, the program provides nutritious lunches to more than 26 million children each day in 95,000 schools and residential child care institutions across the country. For many children, this free or reduced-price meal is often the most nutritious meal of their day.

Equally important, the National School Lunch Program provides our children with the fuel they need to remain alert and attentive in the classroom. Common sense tells us—and scientific research confirms—that a hungry child cannot focus on learning and that a child who does not eat properly is more likely to be sick and absent from school. Day in and day out, school lunches give our children the energy to learn today, while helping them prepare for the challenges of the future.

An array of nutrition programs now supplements the National School Lunch Program. Whether providing schoolchildren with a good breakfast or a healthy afternoon snack, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer School Food Service Program, the Special Milk Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program help ensure that our children eat nutritious and healthy meals throughout the day. As we observe this special week, let us reaffirm the belief of President Harry Truman, founder of the school lunch program, that "Nothing is more important in our national life than the welfare of

our children, and proper nourishment comes first in attaining this welfare."

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of our Nation's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780), has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10 through October 16, 1999, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to recognize all those individuals whose efforts contribute so much to the success of our national child nutrition programs, whether at the Federal, State, or local level.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 13, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Proclamation 7238—National Children's Day, 1999

October 8, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The children of America are our most precious gift and our greatest responsibility. Their well-being is one of the greatest measures of our success as a society, and our ability to provide them with a loving, safe, and supportive environment will help determine the character of our Nation.

We can be proud of the progress we have made in creating such environments. To

strengthen families and homes, we have provided tax relief to working families, raised the minimum wage, and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act so that parents can take time off to be with a sick child or new baby without putting their jobs at risk. To give more children a healthy start in life, we have extended health care coverage to millions of previously uninsured children. To help America's youth reach their full potential, my Administration has urged the Congress to pass legislation to provide our students with a first-rate education by ensuring that they are educated by well-prepared teachers, in smaller classes, in modern and safe buildings, and with the latest in information technology.

On National Children's Day, however, we must also reflect soberly on how far we still have to go to make our communities safe and nurturing places for our children. One of our greatest challenges is to provide health coverage for the almost 11 million American children who are still uninsured. Many of these children are eligible for Medicaid or qualify for coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Programs that are now operating in every State across our Nation. Educators, policymakers, health care professionals, and business, community, and media leaders have a vital role to play in raising parents' awareness of their children's eligibility for this important coverage and making sure that these children are enrolled.

America must also confront the recent senseless acts of violence that have taken the lives and the innocence of so many young people. Places where they once felt safe—schools and churches and day care facilities—have been shaken by violence. Addressing this assault on our society's values and our children's future is a top priority of my Administration. We must work together—parents, students, educators, public officials, and religious, community, and industry leaders—to instill in our youth a sense of compassion, tolerance, and self-respect, so that they may find their way in a troubled world. We must also help them develop the strength to express their own anger and alienation with words, not weapons.

One of the most powerful tools we have in this endeavor is youth mentoring. A recent Department of Justice study showed that mentoring programs help young people resist violence and substance abuse, perform better academically, and interact more positively with their families and with other youth. Recognizing the value of mentoring programs, particularly to the well-being of millions of at-risk youth, my Administration announced earlier this year several public and private initiatives to encourage mentoring, and we set aside \$14 million in grants for the Justice Department's Juvenile Mentoring Program.

Children bring so much hope, joy, and love to our lives; in return, we owe them our time, our attention, the power of our example, and the comfort of our concern. It is a fair trade, and one that enriches the lives of us all.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 10, 1999, as National Children's Day. I urge all Americans to express their love and appreciation for the children of our Nation on this day and on every day throughout the year. I invite Federal officials, local governments, communities, and all American families to join in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also urge all Americans to reflect upon the importance of children to our families, the importance of strong families to our children, and the importance of both to America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 13, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 2

In the afternoon, the President traveled from Palo Alto, CA, to Beverly Hills, CA, and in the evening, he traveled to Brentwood, CA.

October 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Beverly Hills, CA, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving the following morning.

October 4

The President announced his intention to nominate Alphonso Maldon, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cornelius P. O'Leary to be a member of the National Security Education Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate John K. Veroneau to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roy E. Barnes to be a member of the National Drought Policy Commission.

October 5

The White House announced that the President met with Senate Finance Committee Chairman William V. Roth, Jr., and ranking Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan in the Oval Office to discuss Medicare reform.

October 6

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald Stuart Hays to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador.

October 7

In the morning, the President traveled to New York City, and in the evening, he traveled to Ottawa, Canada.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jeanne P. Nathan to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

October 8

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Mont-Tremblant, Canada, where he addressed the Forum of Federations Conference in the Mali Ballroom at the Chateau Mont-Tremblant. Later, the President met with Premier Lucien Bouchard of Quebec.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alan P. Larson to be Under Secretary for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs at the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carol Moseley-Braun to be U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand.

The President announced his intention to nominate Amy L. Comstock to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marc H. Morial as a member of the Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 4

Alphonso Maldon, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Frederick F. Y. Pang, resigned.

Bill Richardson,
of New Mexico, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the Forty-third Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

John K. Veroneau,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Sandra Kaplan Stuart.